



News Release

For immediate release: November 4, 2010

(10-172)

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Top names for Washington babies in 2009

Fewer babies born in the state last year

OLYMPIA — If you named your child Isabella or Alexander, you gave your child the most popular name in Washington. If you chose Isabel or Lincoln instead — you gave your baby the 100th name on the list of most popular baby names in Washington.

This is according to [2009 birth data](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehsphil/chs/chs-data/birth/bir_vd.htm) (www.doh.wa.gov/ehsphil/chs/chs-data/birth/bir_vd.htm) recently released by the Department of Health. The information is available online and goes back to 1980 when the state began tracking baby names, and other birth-related information. The [top 100 names](#) for the last 30 years are ranked (www.doh.wa.gov/ehsphil/chs/chs-data/birth/bir_100.htm).

The most common name in 1980 for a girl was Jennifer; Michael was the top choice for boys. Michael appeared in the top 10 every year except for the past three. Jennifer was in the top 10 for all of the 1980s but has slipped down the list since then; in 2009 it was 97th.

After gradually increasing every year since 2002, births in the state have decreased. Fewer women of childbearing age (15 to 44) are having babies. About 1,000 fewer babies were born in 2009 — 89,242 compared to 90,270 in 2008. The birth rate was 13.4 in 2009, which is a 2.2 percent decrease from the previous year's rate of 13.7. The decrease may be attributed to the economy or increased availability and acceptability of contraceptives, among other reasons.

More information on baby names and other birth-related statistics is on the [Department of Health website](http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/CHS/CHS-Data/main.htm) (www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/CHS/CHS-Data/main.htm).

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Visit the Washington Department of Health website at <http://www.doh.wa.gov> for a healthy dose of information.